

## Calendar No. 395

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3906

To improve certain programs of the Small Business Administration to better assist small business customers in accessing broadband technology, and for other purposes.

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### IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 23, 2022

Mr. MARKEY (for Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. ERNST, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. MARKEY)) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

MAY 25, 2022

Reported by Mr. CARDIN, with amendments

[Omit the part struck through and insert the part printed in italic]

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## A BILL

To improve certain programs of the Small Business Administration to better assist small business customers in accessing broadband technology, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1   **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Small Business  
3   Broadband and Emerging Information Technology En-  
4   hancement Act of 2022”.

5   **SEC. 2. BROADBAND AND EMERGING INFORMATION TECH-**

6                   **NOLOGY COORDINATOR.**

7       The Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is  
8   amended—

9                  (1) by redesignating section 49 (15 U.S.C. 631  
10   note) as section 50; and

11                 (2) by inserting after section 48 (15 U.S.C.  
12   657u) the following:

13   **“SEC. 49. BROADBAND AND EMERGING INFORMATION  
14                   TECHNOLOGY.**

15       “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

16                 “(1) the term ‘Associate Administrator’ means  
17   the Associate Administrator for the Office of Invest-  
18   ment and Innovation;

19                 “(2) the term ‘broadband’ means—

20                     “(A) high-speed wired broadband internet;  
21                     and

22                     “(B) high-speed wireless internet;

23                 “(3) the term ‘broadband and emerging infor-  
24   mation technology coordinator’ means the employee  
25   designated to carry out the broadband and emerging

1 information technology coordination responsibilities  
2 of the Administration under subsection (b)(1); and

3 “(4) the term ‘emerging information technology’ includes—

5 “(A) data science technologies such as artificial intelligence and machine learning;

7 “(B) Internet of Things;

8 “(C) distributed ledger technologies such as blockchain;

10 “(D) cloud computing and software as a system technologies;

12 “(E) computer numerical control technologies such as 3D printing; and

14 “(F) robotics and automation.

15 “(b) ASSIGNMENT OF COORDINATOR.—

16 “(1) ASSIGNMENT OF COORDINATOR.—The Associate Administrator shall designate a senior employee of the Office of Investment and Innovation to serve as the broadband and emerging information technology coordinator, who—

21 “(A) shall report to the Associate Administrator;

23 “(B) shall work in coordination with—

24 “(i) the chief information officer, the chief technology officer, and the head of

1                   the Office of Technology of the Adminis-  
2                   tration; and

3                   “(ii) any other Associate Adminis-  
4                   trator of the Administration determined  
5                   appropriate by the Associate Adminis-  
6                   trator;

7                   “(C) has experience developing and imple-  
8                   menting telecommunications policy in the pri-  
9                   vate sector or government; and

10                  “(D) has demonstrated significant experi-  
11                  ence in the area of broadband or emerging in-  
12                  formation technology.

13                  “(2) RESPONSIBILITIES OF COORDINATOR.—  
14                  The broadband and emerging information technology  
15                  coordinator shall—

16                  “(A) coordinate programs of the Adminis-  
17                  tration that assist small business concerns in  
18                  adopting, making innovations in, and using  
19                  broadband and other emerging information  
20                  technologies;

21                  “(B) serve as the primary liaison of the  
22                  Administration to other Federal agencies in-  
23                  volved in broadband and emerging information  
24                  technology policy, including the Department of  
25                  Commerce, the Department of Agriculture, the

1                   Department of the Treasury, and the Federal  
2                   Communications Commission;

3                   “(C) identify best practices relating to  
4                   broadband and emerging information tech-  
5                   nology that may benefit small business con-  
6                   cerns; and

7                   “(D) identify and catalog tools and train-  
8                   ing available through the resource partners of  
9                   the Administration that assist small business  
10                  concerns in adopting, making innovations in,  
11                  and using broadband and emerging information  
12                  technologies.

13                  “(3) TRAVEL.—Not more than 20 percent of  
14                  the hours of service by the broadband and emerging  
15                  information technology coordinator during any fiscal  
16                  year shall consist of travel outside the United States  
17                  to perform official duties.

18                  “(c) BROADBAND AND EMERGING INFORMATION  
19                  TECHNOLOGY TRAINING.—*The Associate Administrator*  
20                  *shall provide to employees of the Administration training*  
21                  *that—*

22                  “(1) *familiarizes employees of the Administra-*  
23                  *tion with broadband and other emerging information*  
24                  *technologies;*

25                  “(2) *includes—*

1               “(A) instruction on counseling small busi-  
2 ness concerns regarding adopting, making innova-  
3 tions in, and using broadband and other  
4 emerging information technologies; and

5               “(B) information on programs of the Fed-  
6 eral Government that provide assistance to small  
7 business concerns relating to broadband and  
8 emerging information technologies; and

9               “(3) to maximum extent practicable, uses the  
10 tools and training cataloged and identified under sub-  
11 section (b)(2)(D).

12               “(1) TRAINING.—The Associate Administrator  
13 shall provide to employees of the Administration  
14 training that—

15               “(A) familiarizes employees of the Admin-  
16 istration with broadband and other emerging  
17 information technologies;

18               “(B) includes—

19                       “(i) instruction on counseling small  
20 business concerns regarding adopting,  
21 making innovations in, and using  
22 broadband and other emerging information  
23 technologies; and

24                       “(ii) information on programs of the  
25 Federal Government that provide assist-

ance to small business concerns relating to broadband and emerging information technologies; and

“(C) to maximum extent practicable, uses the tools and training cataloged and identified under subsection (b)(2)(D).

“(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this subsection.

**“(d) REPORTS.—**

“(1) BIENNIAL REPORT ON ACTIVITIES.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the Associate Administrator makes the first designation of an employee under subsection (b), and every 2 years thereafter, the broadband and emerging information technology coordinator shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report regarding the programs and activities of the Administration relating to broadband and other emerging information technologies.

“(2) IMPACT OF BROADBAND AVAILABILITY,  
SPEED, AND PRICE AND EMERGING INFORMATION

1 TECHNOLOGY DEPLOYMENT ON SMALL BUSI-  
2 NESSES.—

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to appropriations,  
4 the Chief Counsel for Advocacy shall conduct a study evaluating the impact of—

5 “(i) broadband availability, speed, and  
6 price on small business concerns; and

7 “(ii) emerging information technology  
8 deployment on small business concerns.

9  
10 “(B) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years  
11 after the date of enactment of the Small Busi-  
12 ness Broadband and Emerging Information  
13 Technology Enhancement Act of 2022, the  
14 Chief Counsel for Advocacy shall submit to the  
15 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-  
16 portation and the Committee on Small Business  
17 and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the  
18 Committee on Energy and Commerce and the  
19 Committee on Small Business of the House of  
20 Representatives a report on the results of the  
21 study under subparagraph (A), including—

22 “(i) a survey of broadband speeds  
23 available to small business concerns;

1                         “(ii) a survey of the cost of broadband  
2                         speeds available to small business con-  
3                         cerns;

4                         “(iii) a survey of the type of  
5                         broadband technology used by small busi-  
6                         ness concerns;

7                         “(iv) a survey of the types of emerg-  
8                         ing information technologies used by small  
9                         business concerns; and

10                         “(v) any policy recommendations that  
11                         may improve the access of small business  
12                         concerns to comparable broadband services  
13                         or emerging information technologies at  
14                         comparable rates in all regions of the  
15                         United States.”.

16 **SEC. 3. ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT.**

17                         Section 21(c)(3)(B) of the Small Business Act (15  
18 U.S.C. 648(c)(3)(B)) is amended—

19                         (1) in the matter preceding clause (i), by insert-  
20                         ing “accessing broadband and other emerging infor-  
21                         mation technology,” after “technology transfer,”;

22                         (2) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at the end;

23                         (3) in clause (iii), by adding “and” at the end;

24                         and

25                         (4) by adding at the end the following:

1                 “(iv) increasing the competitiveness and  
2                 productivity of small business concerns by as-  
3                 sisting entrepreneurs in accessing broadband  
4                 and other emerging information technology;”.



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